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TWENTY-EIGHTH MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

NEW ORLEANS, LA

March 4-8, 1988

REPORT

OF THE

UNITED STATES SENATE

AND

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DELEGATIONS

MARCH 1989

Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives respectively

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MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

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Elliott Brown, *Minority Staff Director,* Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

MARCH 23, 1989.

The Honorable J. DANFORTH QUAYLE,
President, U.S. Senate
The Honorable JIM WRIGHT,
Speaker, House of Representatives

GENTLEMEN: Pursuant to Public Law 86-420, it is our privilege to transmit the report of the 28th meeting of the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group, which was held in New Orleans, LA, March 4-8, 1988.

The 28th meeting between the legislators of Mexico and the United States continued the tradition of providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions in an atmosphere of cooperation and respect.

The free exchange of thoughts between the respective legislators reinforced the interdependence of our two nations and the continuing need for discussion of problems of mutual concern. We hope this report and the experience gained by those of our colleagues participating in the 28th meeting will be of assistance to the Congress whenever matters of interest to our two countries are considered.

Sincerely yours,

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD,
Chairman, Senate Delegation
E (KIKA) DE LA GARZA,
Chairman, House of Representatives Delegation

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BACKGROUND AND COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS

U.S. participation in annual Parliamentary Conferences with Mexico was authorized by a joint resolution (Public Law 86–420), approved on April 9, 1960. The first conference was held in Guadalajara, Jalisco, the following February, and subsequent meetings have been held in the United States in even-numbered years and in Mexico in odd-numbered years.

Attending the 28th Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Conference held in New Orleans, LA, March 4–8, 1988, were:

United States

Attending the meetings from the U.S. Senate were: Christopher J. Dodd, Connecticut, Chairman; Phil Gramm, Texas, Vice Chairman; and John McCain, Arizona.

The Members from the House of Representatives were: E (Kika) De La Garza, Texas, Chairman; Gus Yatron, Pennsylvania, Vice Chairman; Sam Gibbons, Florida; Charles B. Rangel, New York; George Miller, California; Sam Gejdenson, Connecticut; Ronald D. Coleman, Texas; David Dreier, California; Tom DeLay, Texas; Benjamin A. Gilman, New York; William F. Goodling, Pennsylvania; Sid Morrison, Washington; and Jim Kolbe, Arizona.

Mexico

Senator Salvador J. Neme Castillo, President of the Gran Commission, was Chairman of the Mexican Delegation and Deputy Juan Jose Bremer Martino was co-Chairman. Other Mexican delegates were:

The members from the Mexican Senate were: Socorro Diaz Palacios; Hugo B. Margain; Alejandro Sobarzo Loaiza; Agustin Tellez Cruces; Hector Vazquez Paredes; Juan S. Millan Lizarrga; Gonzalo Pastrana Castro; and Guadalupe Gomez Maganda de Anaya.

The members from the Mexican Chamber of Deputies were: Luis Orci Gandara; Hesiquio Aguilar de la Parra; Ignacio Ramos Espinoza; Homero Diaz Cordoba; Maria Emilia Farias Mackey; Romeo Flores Caballero; Marco Antonio Espinoza Pablos; Jose Herrera Arango; Antonio Melgar Aranda; Jesus Gonzalez Schmall; Alejandro Encinas; Francisco Hernandez Juarez; and Jorge Amador Amador.

Special guest was: His Excellency Jorge Espinosa de los Reyes, Ambassador of Mexico.

The members of the Mexican staff were: Lic. Miguel Montes Garcia, Official Mayor; Dr. Jorge Bustamente; Dr. Carlos E. Jalife Villalon; Sra. Italia Morayta; Lic. Adolfo Riva Palacio Neri; Lic. Morelos Canseco Gomez; Lic. Samuel Ridriguez Mora; Lic. Francisco Lopez Alvarez; Lic. Luis Estrada; Sr. Javier Juarez; Sr. Enrique Montes; Sr. Fernando Medel; Sra. Zenaida Herrera Carriles; Sra.

Maria Elena Salinas; Sra. Marcia Calderon; Lic. Leticia Ortega Mendez; Sr. Everardo Santiago; Emb. Ignacio Villasenor; and Emb. Walter Astie.

Conference Program

The Mexican delegation arrived at Andrews Air Force Base on March 3 and were welcomed by members of the United States delegation. The Mexican delegation came to Washington for a meeting with President Reagan.

On March 4, the Mexican delegation was transported directly to the White House where they and members of the United States delegation were received by President Reagan. The delegations were addressed by the President and by Senator Salvador J. Neme Castillo, Chairman of the Mexican delegation.

Following the White House meeting the Mexican delegation was taken to Andrews Air Force Base for the flight to New Orleans. In New Orleans the United States delegation joined the Mexican delegation at the Westin Canal Hotel, the site of the conference.

The following morning, Saturday, the opening plenary session of the conference took place in the ballroom of the hotel.

This session included remarks by Senator Christopher J. Dodd, Chairman of the U.S. Senate delegation and Senator Salvador J. Neme Castillo, Chairman of the Mexican delegation.

The remainder of the day was taken up with the meetings of the two working committees, the Political and Social Affairs Committee and the Economic Affairs Committee, to which all delegates in attendance were assigned.

On Sunday morning, the committees met and completed their work and then attended the closing plenary session of the 28th conference. At that time, a joint communique outlining discussions which had occurred in the two committees and the conclusions reached during the course of the 2-day meetings was released by the two delegations.

In the final session, the group was addressed by Deputy Juan Jose Bremer, Vice Chairman of the Mexican delegation and Representative E (Kika) de la Garza, Chairman of the House of Representatives delegation.

The two delegations departed New Orleans on March 8, 1988.

The Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Conferences do not take votes or pass resolutions. The detailed agenda of the formal work of the two working committees are included in the pages which follow along with the joint communique of the delegations. The opening and closing plenary sessions are open to full media and press coverage.

There follows the rules of procedure adopted annually by the conference:

1. The United States cochairman will designate a U.S. delegate to serve as chairman of each committee.
2. Each of delegations will name a delegate for each committee to serve as official rapporteur.[1]

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[1] In the interest of time, the chairman of the U.S. delegation agreed to suspend the application of rules 2 and 3, calling for the appointment of rapporteurs and preparation of rapporteur

Continued

3. In each committee the Mexican rapporteur and the United States rapporteur will prepare a summary of the principal points and arguments made by the delegates of his country in that committee.[1]

4. All meetings will start at the designated hour regardless of the number of delegates present. If the chairman is not present, a delegate designated by the chairman will call the meeting to order.

5. To assure maximum participation the chairman will recognize alternately members of each delegation in the order in which they indicate a desire to speak.

6. In order that as many delegates as wish may participate, a delegate may not speak for more than 10 minutes until each delegate who wishes to speak has had his opportunity.

7. A delegate who has been recognized shall not be called to order or interrupted during the time allotted him.

8. A delegate may participate in the discussion of a committee other than the one to which he is assigned in the same manner as a delegate assigned to the committee.

9. No votes will be taken.

10. It will be in the discretion of the chairman to determine that a subject has been discussed sufficiently and to recommend proceeding to the next

11. The opening and concluding plenary sessions will be open to the press and the public, and a stenographic record will be made. All committee sessions will be limited to the delegates and to staff attached to each of the two delegations. In order to assure the maximum expression of views, it is understood that discussions in the committees will be considered as private and not for publication.

12. It is requested that delegates and staff wear their badges when attending meetings and other functions.

Work of the Conference

The work of the conference was conducted in its two committees each with its own detailed agenda for discussion. The joint communique issued at the conclusion of the meeting reflects the discussions of the members.

Committee I—Political and Social Affairs

Members: Senators Christopher J. Dodd (Chairman), Phil Gramm, and John McCain; Representatives Gus Yatron, Charles B. Rangel, George Miller, Ronald D. Coleman, Benjamin A. Gilman, William F. Goodling, David Dreier, Tom DeLay, and Sid Morrison.

The agenda of the committee follows:

FIRST SESSION

I. General Panorama of U.S.-Mexican Political Relations
II. International and Regional Problems
  A. Evaluation of Inter-American System
  B. Peace and Disarmament
  C. Situation in Central America

SECOND SESSION

I. Bilateral Relations
  A. Migratory Workers and Other Immigration Issues (Simpson-Rodino Law)
  B. Cooperation in the Fight Against Narcotics

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reports. (Complete summaries of the discussions held in the two committees, which accomplish the same purpose, will be included, instead, in the reports issued by each of the respective delegations.)

THIRD SESSION

Bilateral Relations continued
- C. Border and Maritime Issues
  1. Border Crossings
  2. Environmental Problems
  3. Maritime Boundary Treaty

Committee II—Economic Affairs

Members: Representatives E (Kika) de la Garza (Chairman), Sam Gibbons, Sam Gejdenson, and Jim Kolbe. Senator Phil Gramm and Representatives David Dreier and Tom DeLay, who were assigned to the Political and Social Affairs Committee, also participated in certain discussions of the Economic Affairs Committee.

The agenda of the committee follows:

FIRST SESSION

I. General Panorama of the World Economy
- A. Commercial Issues
- B. Financial Issues (Foreign Debt)

SECOND SESSION

I. Bilateral Relations
- A. Commercial Relations
- B. Foreign Investment
- C. Cultural, Scientific, and Technological Relations

THIRD SESSION

I. Bilateral Relations—continued
- D. Frontier (Border) Transactions
- E. Tourism
- F. Energy

JOINT COMMUNIQUE—28th MEXICO-UNITED STATES OF AMERICA INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETING, NEW ORLEANS, LA, U.S.A., MARCH 4-6, 1988

As a result of the deliberations during the 28th Interparliamentary Meeting between the members of their respective Congresses, the parliamentary delegations of the United States of America and the United States of Mexico have agreed to subscribe to the following.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

I. This year's interparliamentary talks between the United States and Mexico once again confirm the relevance and viability of the meetings which have been held over the past 28 years. These meetings provide special opportunities for dialog between representatives of the people and constitute an institutional framework for the consideration of the principal issues that concern bilateral relations in their political, social, economic, and cultural aspects.

The meeting held in New Orleans represents a step forward in the common aim of basing relations between the United States and Mexico on flexible, direct, and mature communications.

The meeting proved the desirability of maintaining the dialog, which has been developed in an ongoing and systematic way since 1961. It contributed to the creation and maintenance of a favorable political climate for dealing with the array of issues that make up the bilateral agenda.

II. The delegations expressed the view that the various bilateral treaties and accords that have been negotiated and signed by their respective federal executives and approved in due time by the Senates of both counties, constitute a set of norms that have served to regulate different aspects of bilateral relations in detail, and confirmed their conviction of the importance that international law should govern the conduct of their contacts and exchanges.

III. In the course of the different working sessions of the Committee on Political and Social Affairs and on Economic Affairs, the parliamentarians expressed their views freely for the purpose of promoting new forms of cooperation between their Congresses, and through them, between their countries.

IV. The asymmetry that exists in relations between the United States and Mexico was acknowledged. Nonetheless, the mutual interdependence that characterizes these relations was also recognized—an interdependence which is manifested chiefly in economic affairs, but also has implications in political and social affairs. Both characteristics—asymmetry and interdependence—should be understood as fundamental elements in seeking a more balanced and equitable relationship.

V. They agreed that well conducted bilateral relations between their countries must be based on the recognition of their differences, on mutual respect for these differences, and on the willingness to cooperate through reciprocal understanding. In this regard, they agreed that friendship between the two countries must be based on strict respect for each other's political systems and forms of government.

VI. The delegations reaffirmed their continued commitment to the longstanding principle of respect for their sovereign equality of states as fundamental to resolving bilateral differences.

VII. They recognized that it is necessary to increase even further the holding of direct informal talks and exchanges between the legislators and staffs of the two countries, as a mechanism that promotes greater understanding of their political processes.

VIII. Similarly, they came to the conclusion that it is essential to strengthen cultural exchanges, as a proper means of attaining better understanding of their respective countries.

IX. The delegations reviewed basic issues of bilateral relations and exchanged views regarding international affairs of common interest. In the process they took note of major progress made in areas of cooperation and agreed on the necessity of working intensively on those areas that might give rise to friction or confrontation in the future.

X. With respect to the items of the agenda, they pointed out the following:

1. Political and Social Affairs

A. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

The present Central American crisis constitutes a serious threat to the sovereignty of these nations and to the survival of democratic practices in the region. The underlying cause of the conflicts in the region is lack of economic development and respect for human rights. The growth of their respective economies and the broadening of democratic institutions are necessary prerequisites for a long-term solution to these conflicts.

In resolving differences among Central American states, strategies of a political, economic, and social nature must be combined, which when implemented, must be governed by an unqualified determination to achieve peace. In the pursuit of peace, all initiatives or alternatives are worthy of consideration, but balanced just, pluralistic and lasting solution of the Central American conflicts can only come about as a result of negotiations and political dialog, among Central American nations, according to the will of their peoples, as expressed through democratic processes.

At the present time, within the peacemaking process, substantial progress has been made toward achieving reconciliation and establishing new relationships based on mutual trust and respect. Both delegations applaud the Esquipulas II agreement and efforts by the Central American Presidents to achieve peace in their region. The two delegations pledge their full support to these efforts.

The inter-American system can serve as a special forum of political dialog among the nations of this hemisphere. Like all political

organizations, it evolved according to the different political, economic, and social conditions of its members. Faced with increasingly pluralistic and heterogeneous characteristics among the American States, the system is supposed to play a fundamental role in the maintenance of peace, self-determination of peoples, and the peaceful settlement of disputes as provided for in the Charter of the Organization of American States.

The Mexican delegation looked with favor on the process of disarmament which has been started by the United States and the Soviet Union, as demonstrated by the adherence to the treaty providing for the elimination of short- and intermediate-range nuclear missiles now located in Europe and Asia. It recognizes that for the first time a step has been taken to go beyond limitation of armaments to eradication of one of its components.

Faced with the latent threat of a nuclear holocaust, which could even be triggered by technological malfunctions, mankind's yearning for a secure world order, based on trust and understanding among the plurality of states that comprise the community of nations, has intensified. Moreover, it has become clear that an enduring and stable peace must go hand in hand with economic development, since the latter allows for the establishment of new patterns of equity between nations.

B. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

As a result of their discussion on the issue of Mexican migrant workers in the United States, it was agreed that ongoing informal dialog between the two Congresses should continue in order to maintain regular communication. These discussions will allow for more adequate followup of this and other important bilateral issues.

On reviewing the exchanges held by the Commission for the Study of International Migrations and Cooperative Economic Development with various Mexican Government officials, it was stressed that there is a trend toward shortages in the United States labor market and that the absence of Mexican labor may have an adverse effect on some sectors of the United States economy.

In the fight against the abuse of illicit drugs, a strategy of combat based upon the eradication of the phenomenon in all of its stages is needed. Both delegations emphasized the international sequential aspect of this criminal activity, and reaffirmed the objective of jointly attacking its underlying causes and the factors which enable it to flourish.

In the framework of bilateral cooperation for coping with this social cancer, they reviewed the work carried out by the executive initiatives of their respective governments, and expressed their conviction that this fight undertaken by the legal requirements of their respective juridical systems, be consistent with the Treaty of Mutual Legal Assistance, recently signed and already approved by the Mexican Senate. Both delegations expressed their confidence that this instrument would be approved by the United States Senate.

It is not only opportune, but also necessary, to proceed to the establishment of a Mexico-United States Intergovernmental Commis-

sion for the Control of the Abuse of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances, as proposed by the 26th Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Meeting, held in Colorado Springs, CO, in 1986. Its work would undoubtedly contribute to enhancing cooperation in the field, and result in a more accurate diagnosis and effective fight against the production, financing, trafficking, distribution, and consumption of drugs, as well as against "money laundering." Furthermore, its work would help to improve the campaigns of education and prevention against this activity.

The protection of the environment in the border region and along the coasts is a subject that requires mutually concerted efforts and strong political will. Bilateral dialog on this subject has already led to important achievements, especially on the Arizona-Sonora border. Nevertheless, this is a matter that requires ongoing cooperation, because of the positive effect that it has on the quality of life of the population. The legislators agreed that the work undertaken by each party should be proportional to its economic capabilities.

The Mexican delegation reiterated its request to the United States Senate to proceed to the consideration of the Treaty of Maritime Limits of 1976, since it sets forth principles of international law which are consistent with U.S. Federal law.

2. Economic and Cultural Affairs

A. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE WORLD ECONOMY

In view of the marked economic interdependence of all countries in the world, particularly noteworthy because of the proximity of the United States and Mexico, it is essential not to analyze and resolve world economic problems with more financial or accounting criterion, the consequences of which would foreclose opportunities for economic growth by the nations of less relative development, and would adversely affect the world community as a whole.

In the solution to the world economic crisis, the principle of international cooperation for development should play a predominant role. Following this course would not only avert the specter of a recession of alarming proportions, but would also contribute to more adequate development of productive forces in all the nations of the world.

Recognition must be given to the fact that each country must assume part of the responsibility for overcoming the present economic crisis.

Regarding external debt, legislators of both countries agreed that the capacity to pay off debts rests in restoring growth and development, and the flow of foreign exchange through increasing trade transactions and complementary financial flows. Therefore they recommended an increase in bilateral trade. In addition, they maintained that the subject of external indebtedness continues to be an object of ongoing dialog between Mexico and its creditors, within the spirit of constructive negotiations, in order to identify innovative mechanisms designed to achieve fundamental solutions to the external debt problem, with the framework that corresponds to the responsibilities between debtors and creditors.

B. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

Both delegations agreed that Mexico has carried out a process of structural change in its economy. Mexican exports constitute a fundamental part of its ability to surmount the financial problems of its economy. This effort needs the understanding and cooperation of the United States of America—its chief trading partner.

A fruitful system of economic cooperation has been found in the in-bond industry. It is an activity which has mainly been characterized by assembly operations, but which also constitutes the basis for accepting new stages of shared production. Both delegations agree on the advisability of exploring this possibility further, so that they may contribute in their areas of competence to future expansion.

Following up on a suggestion of the United States delegation at the 27th United States-Mexico Interparliamentary Conference, that the labor organizations of their respective countries should meet to exchange views on the in-bond industry, the Mexican delegation reported that representatives of the AFL–CIO and the CTM would meet later this month for that purpose.

After evaluating the growth in reciprocal tourist flows and reviewing the issue of the safety that each nation offers foreign visitors, they agreed that. aside from unfortunate isolated incidents, tourists generally enjoy adequate conditions of safety during their visits.

It is necessary to promote ongoing educational and cultural exchanges, based on respect for each nation's traditions and customs. These exchanges serve to strengthen mutual understanding. For its part the Mexican delegation thanked the United States legislators for the support their country has given to the work of identifying and returning Mexican archaeological pieces that were in the possession of United States private citizens or institutions, and reiterated its confidence in the certainty that the 1970 Treaty for the Recovery of Archaeological, Historical, and Cultural Wealth has given to this cooperative effort.

The recognized that scientific and technological cooperation is being carried out in very wide-ranging fields, and is directed toward better use of scientific knowledge in projects that can improve the utilization of resources in production processes. Both delegations committed themselves to encouraging these exchanges within the areas of their competence.

In order to maintain an ongoing channel of communications between the two delegations, the chairmen agreed to continue a special auxiliary working group as approved at the 27th interparliamentary session. This group will further review topics and problems of mutual interest and concern.

UNITED STATES DELEGATION
MEXICAN DELEGATION
New Orleans, LA, United States of America, March 6, 1988.

APPENDIX

Opening Address by Senator Christopher J. Dodd

Friends and colleagues, it is a great honor and a distinct pleasure for me to welcome you to New Orleans and to the 28th Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Conference. New Orleans is a city with a unique history. Founded in 1718, it is one of the oldest in the United States. It is the product of the confluence of peoples and cultures—French, Spanish, and Caribbean. Despite the fact that we have set for ourselves a very ambitious agenda for these 2 days of meetings, I hope that all of you will have an opportunity to enjoy the many attractions this city has to offer.

I see in the audience this morning many familiar faces. I see new ones as well. Whether you are a veteran of these conferences or a newcomer, an American Congressman or Mexican Deputy we all speak the same language in a metaphoric sense.

That is because we share a heritage of common bonds, not a history of perceived grievances. Included in that heritage is a shared belief in democratic values and traditions. Nothing is a clearer expression of our shared values and traditions than the presidential campaigns which are currently underway on both sides of the border. When we gather next year for the 29th United States-Mexico Interparliamentary Conference, Mexico will have a new chief executive, as will the United States. This is a reflection of political strength and unity.

These shared values make day-to-day discourse between our peoples that much easier. Be it trade or monetary matters; immigration or border questions; energy or tourism issues—we are one step ahead of most other nations around the world in resolving these matters. The reason is quite simple. Our goals are the same: We seek to live in peace and prosperity within the framework of a democracy.

What better example of the strength and unity of our relationship than our 2,000-mile border—stretching from San Diego/Tijuana on the Pacific to Brownsville/Matamoros on the Caribbean. Keep in mind that borders don't have lives of their own. They don't build walls or interrogate people or plant mines or erect barbed wire fences. People do that. Governments that don't trust each other and can't or won't cooperate do that. Borders reflect the state of the union—the union between the two nations.

Millions and millions of Mexicans and Americans crossed the border last year. These excursions were mostly commonplace and peaceful—like a Saturday visit by a resident of my home State of Connecticut to Manhattan. As we all know, such routine crossings don't occur at every border around the globe. In other parts of the world, crossing a border can require great courage and personal sacrifice.

The United States/Mexican border is but one of the success stories of our very rich and complex union. Since we last met, the United States and Mexico have signed a framework agreement on trade and investment. While the first of its kind between the United States and a Latin American country, it certainly is fitting. And, I might add, long overdue between two countries so economically entwined as the United States and Mexico.

Without doubt, Mexico represents a critical market for United States products—and the reverse is equally true: The United States is a critical market for Mexican products. Our two-way trade last year reached $35 billion. This figure can grow even larger. All that is required is that we continue efforts to dismantle barriers to such commerce and to loosen, in particular, the Gordian knob of external debt which has threatened to strangle the Mexican economy.

Examples of the friendship and cooperation between our two countries go beyond border affairs and trade matters. There are joint efforts in the areas of science and technology, labor and immigration, energy and external debt. Some are self-evident. Some are less well known. Some make the front pages of our daily newspapers. Some appear not at all, but they are no less real.

Take for example, Mexico's cooperation in the area of bilateral cultural affairs. Last December President de la Madrid gave his full support to an exciting project of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. With Mexican cooperation, the museum will exhibit several hundred priceless Mexican artifacts as an illustration of Mexico's contribution to the culture of the Western Hemisphere.

But like any good relationship between close friends, there will, from time to time, be disagreements. Such disputes are often irritating, but seldom fatal when the relationship is fundamentally sound. It is also helpful to remember that in such

situations, rarely is one party fully at fault and the other party totally without blame.

One source of friction in our relationship concerns the fight against international drug trafficking. Without doubt Mexico is a major source and transit point for illegal drugs entering the United States. It is equally true, however, that Mexican authorities have undertaken major efforts to interdict and eradicate these drugs.

Despite serious budgetary problems, last year the de la Madrid government increased funding for its narcotics control programs. In addition, there has been a major advance toward improving United States/Mexican law enforcement cooperation in the fight against drugs, since we last met. The United States and Mexico have signed a mutual legal assistance treaty. The Mexican Senate has already given its advice and consent to ratification, and I believe that the United States Senate will follow suit in the very near future.

Have efforts been totally effective in combating drug trafficking? No. Would we all like to see more done? Sure. But I must say that I find much of the criticism leveled at Mexico on this matter by those of us on this side of the border to be almost self-righteous in tone. It ignores completely the fact that the United States has a serious drug consumption problem. It ignores an appetite for illegal drugs in this country which borders on insatiable.

If we can agree that Mexican efforts have not been totally effective at thwarting the supply of drugs, we must also acknowledge that our efforts to reduce trafficking and consumption on this side of the border leave a lot to be desired. This is particularly so given the quantity of U.S. taxpayers' funds devoted to the effort.

President de la Madrid perhaps said it best during his recent meeting with President Reagan: "It will not be possible to defeat international drug trafficking unless production, distribution, and consumption are attacked with similar strength and effectiveness." Let's get about the business of doing just that, and stop the totally counterproductive fingerpointing. Mexican and American lives are at stake here. I would go even further and assert that the very fabric of our societies are threatened by this cancer.

I look forward to the coming weekend of talks. The 28-year history of these meetings is a rich one. It is a happy opportunity to say hello to old friends and make some new ones. Our agenda is an ambitious one, but I am confident that at the end of the next 2 days we will all be the richer for the experience. Last month President de la Madrid observed to President Reagan when they met that we face difficult times today. Times that call for a mixture of "realism, firmness, and a sense of responsibility." Our duty now is to take that advice to heart. I know we can and I know we will. Thank you.

Closing Address by Representative E (Kika) de la Garza

Senator Dodd, Senator Neme, Deputy Bremer, and my colleagues from the Congresses of Mexico and the United States, it is an honor and a privilege to close the 28th session of the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group.

Let me, first, express for the delegation from the United States House of Representatives our sincere appreciation to the staff, both from Mexico and the United States, for their efforts which have contributed greatly to the success of our endeavors here in New Orleans. To the interpreters and those responsible for ensuring the smooth operation of our communications equipment, many of whom have been with us for several years, I want to thank you for your efforts.

Also, a special thanks to the distinguished Ambassador from Mexico to the United States who is here with us and has always been a sincere friend; and to the Consul of Mexico here in New Orleans for his attendance and assistance at these proceedings.

At the opening of our proceedings the hope was expressed that this meeting would be as good or better than those which have gone before. I feel very strongly that this has been a very productive conference. Our agenda is important to both countries and the manner in which our discussions have been conducted has evolved to a more personal, informal manner. That, in itself, is more constructive and I think will be very helpful at future meetings. This is not a criticism of past conferences, but a recognition that we are getting better at conducting our deliberations.

Let me say, my friends, and let me say very sincerely, that I feel very strongly about what we do here and about those who come in good faith to participate in this example of the good relationship between our two countries.

The United States and Mexico maintain, at the highest level of our two governments, excellent channels of communication. Differences exist between us but those differences are subject to discussion for agreement and/or disagreement.

I think of all the meetings that I attend as the chairman of the Agriculture Committee of the House of Representatives and I add, very respectfully, that I am privileged to have contact with the world because agriculture has come to the forefront on the agenda of world affairs. Throughout the year I visit with delegations from throughout the world. There are meetings with the European Community, the Diet from Japan, and representatives from Thailand and other Asian countries. I visit with representatives from South and Central America, the Soviet Union, and other Eastern bloc countries. But I always look with more anticipation and more feeling of satisfaction on my involvement with the parliamentarians from Mexico.

I say this not because I have been honored, perhaps unworthily, to have been the chairman of the delegation from the House of Representatives for several years, but because I feel that this is a relationship which is more important and so closely linked. And I assure you that, hopefully, this will continue.

I recall a phrase that I heard from a priest at church not too long ago. I wish I had coined the phrase. He said "the world is not finished yet; we have a long way to go"; and this is true. We are in an evolutionary process on this planet and even in outer space the evolutionary process is continuing as new moons are being discovered.

On our own planet we still have hunger; we still have inadequacy of housing; we still have inadequacy of education; we still have war. We still have evolution and suffering on our planet. You suffered not too long ago in Mexico City; it has happened in Colombia; it has happened in California. To my Mexican friends, I would say that we must continue working together for two reasons that I would like to mention:

First, I would like to recall the guidance given to us by Gustavo Dias Ordaz, who said "geography has made us neighbors, history has made us friends." This is why I said that I am so interested in these interparliamentary exchanges between Mexico and the United States.

Second, we must move on to accomplish that which still must be done to complete our task. Perhaps no one has said this better than our good friend, Lyndon Johnson, at a meeting after he had left the Presidency and had come to live amongst us. When asked what his government philosophy had been, he replied that it was quite simple, "everything I tried to do, what I in my heart wanted to achieve, was a job for every person who wants to work, a home for his family, and a school for his children. After that, anything can be solved by itself and settle itself alone."

For these reasons I hope that the steps that we have taken here will follow the philosophy of these great leaders. Why? Because what Gustavo Dias Ordaz has said will never change and so we must improve upon our friendship and we also have to follow Lyndon Johnson's aspiration, which is the one which we all have, that there are no children that are hungry, that there are no families without a home, that there are no people without schools, and that there be peace. Peace and freedom for all mankind.

Finally, I would like to address our Mexican colleagues who will be ending their terms in office. I would like to thank you for the contribution you have made not only to these meetings but to the people of Mexico and to the world. Any person who serves in a public office contributes, in his own way, to the process of making a better world for all.

So, to those of you who are now ending your term, the deputies who will be ending their 3-year terms and the senators their 6-year terms we would like to thank you for the grains of sand you have placed on the beach of the world. Thanks for your efforts to improve the life of the people of Mexico and the lives of all those touched by your endeavors for whatever happens in Mexico can have an impact on others, particularly your neighbors to the north.

Thus, for myself and my colleagues from the U.S. Congress, I would like to extend best wishes to all of you in the coming years, and hope that, should we continue our careers as legislators our paths will cross again. Recalling the admonitions of Benito Juarez, Gustavo Diaz Ordaz, and Lyndon Johnson, we should remember that we the legislators in Mexico and the United States should serve as the guides to lead our people to achieve a better world in the future.

Thank you.

Statement of Representative Gus Yatron

Last year, I discussed a subject which constituted an area of growing cooperation between the United States and Mexico—the environment.

It is important to look at some of the successes of Mexican-American cooperation because they can serve as a model for us in addressing other issues, not only between our two nations, but in our relations with other countries as well. In the case of the environment, I think our governments acted with great foresight to prevent potential problems from becoming major disruptions.

Environmental issues can undermine economic growth and threaten national security. They do not respect national boundaries and thus necessitate international cooperation. Both of our countries have established sophisticated structures, procedures, and institutions to address domestic environmental concerns.

However, as the infamous oil blowout in the Gulf of Mexico in 1978 made clear, the United States and Mexico needed a formal structure to coordinate actions and foster cooperation in dealing with the environment. Air pollution, water pollution, hazardous wastes, soil degradation, flooding, represent problems which, if left unresolved, could cause substantial disruptions between us and have a devastating impact on the health and welfare of our citizens.

Efforts climaxed in 1983 when Presidents Reagan and de la Madrid signed an accord to provide protections against air, water, and soil pollution within 100 kilometers of our 2,000-mile border.

One of the most important areas of environmental cooperation is embodied in the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC). The IBWC has been successful in facilitating solutions to boundary and water problems benefiting the citizens of both countries and improving relations. Basically, the Commission administers the maintenance and operation of projects and applies the rights and obligations our two governments assumed under various boundary and water agreements.

Clearly, much has been accomplished, and it is encouraging that progress is continuing. In October 1987, the United States House of Representatives passed an important measure, sponsored by our colleague Kika de la Garza, authorizing the IBWC to conclude agreements with the Mexican Government to correct the pollution of the Rio Grande caused by the discharge of raw and inadequately treated sewage and other wastes from certain border cities. The legislation envisions the construction, operation, and maintenance, of projects to protect the health of people along the Rio Grande border. The bill is not in the Senate.

While other environmental issues remain, our governments are moving forward in a cooperative manner to resolve them. We have come a long way and much has been accomplished in a relatively short period of time. I am hopeful that present and future policymakers will use the environmental model to build upon and address other areas which constitute actual and potential obstacles to better relations.

Statement of Representative Charles B. Rangel

Mr. Chairman, my distinguished colleagues from Mexico and the United States, it is one again a pleasure for me to participate in the annual Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Conference.

I am here to discuss an issue of grave importance and consequence to both of our great nations—narcotics control. We have discussed this at each of these sessions for the past several years. I have always been pleased by the commitment to narcotics control cooperation demonstrated by the legislatures of both sides of our border.

Yet, the situation is deteriorating. We are losing ground. More drugs are being produced each year, and more violence, crime, and tragedy surround the abuse of these deadly substances. The International Narcotics Control Strategy Report which was just released by our State Department on March 1, 1988, shows a worldwide increase in the amount of heroin, cocaine, and marijuana produced.

Unfortunately, despite the efforts of the Mexican Government, Mexican heroin is said to have increased from an estimated 35 to 50 metric tons in 1986 to an estimated 45 to 55 metric tons in 1987. Likewise, Mexican marijuana production is said to have increased from an estimated 4,000 to 6,000 metric tons in 1986 to an estimated 5,970 to 7,130 metric tons in 1987.

Every effort must be made to eradicate narcotic crops wherever they are grown. Both of our nations face eradication challenges in the future. Marijuana production has recently also become a problem in some States in the United States of America and we are addressing that.

You face even more serious eradication challenges with both opium poppy and marijuana cultivation in parts of your country. I am aware of the eradication efforts

by the Government of Mexico. The unfortunate fact remains that the drug producers are growing their deadly crops at a much higher rate than the eradication rate—the end result being a net increase in opium/heroin production. Whatever I can do, as chairman of the House Narcotics Committee, to provide assistance to the Government of Mexico, I will be happy to do. Please let me know.

As legislative colleagues, we have discussed the benefits of having a mutual legal assistance treaty between our two great nations and have encouraged our respective administrations to finalize such a treaty. Last June when we met, the final draft was being discussed by the executive branches of both governments. As you know, it was signed on December 9, 1987, and I am pleased that our Mexican colleagues have ratified it already.

Unfortunately, our Senate Foreign Relations Committee has not acted as fast. The committee has been under tremendous domestic and global pressure to study and vote on ratification of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty with the Soviet Union. I have been informed that they will not be able to conduct hearings to ratify the Mexican-United States MLAT until after they vote on ratification of the INF Treaty. They indicated that it would be sometime in March or April.

As I see it, however, the MLAT is as good as ratified. We should look ahead on how to implement its provisions. It promises to be a very useful tool for law enforcement and criminal justice cooperation. The sharing of information, testimony, documents, records, and evidence; the execution of searches and seizures; the serving of documents; and the provision of assistance in procedures regarding the immobilizing, securing, and forfeiture of the proceeds and assets of crime should greatly enhance our joint narcotics control efforts.

Two years ago, Customs, Coast Guard, and DEA joined together with State and local law enforcement entities along the border to form "Operation Alliance." This joint operation's sole purpose is to stop the flow of illegal narcotics being smuggled across our 2,000-mile border. Two thousand miles is a lot of ground to cover—it is a tough job. In particular, the new MLAT will enable the MFJP to cooperate more closely with these agencies on this extremely important, mutually beneficial mission.

In the meantime, we continue to try to expand all of our drug interdiction efforts. But we really need your help. I know that the MFJP has many fine and dedicated law enforcement officers, and I know that many have given their lives in the battle against narcotics. But, this battle is not one that is crucial only to the United States of America; it affects the national security of every country involved, including Mexico, and virtually the entire Western Hemisphere.

The corruption that surrounds the cultivation, manufacture, and trafficking of illegal narcotics destabilizes and has the power to destroy families, communities, and governments. My heart was heavy when I read that yet another Colombian friend, a fine and dedicated man who sought to bring justice and peace to his country, Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos, was brutally killed by drug traffickers. I have lost count of the number of their supreme court justices and other federal judges who have been slain for attempting to try narcotics cases in their courtrooms. This is a tragedy that I pray will somehow soon be reversed and hopefully will never be repeated there or anywhere else again.

I have said again and again that the narcotics problem is simultaneously so complex and so dangerous, that we must attack it on all fronts, at all angles, with all of the ammunition we have available.

You can turn on your TV to know that demand is something that a clever supplier can create and manipulate. From designer jeans to VCR's to breakfast cereal, manipulative executives are hawking their wares. And they are effective. Who is the target of a great portion of these ads? The most vulnerable and impressionable group in society—our young people.

While drug dealers don't have access to legal commercial advertising, they certainly have established a network of marketing strategies, mostly using peer pressure tactics to entice our vulnerable youth into trying drugs. For example, it is rare that a first-time user of any illegal drug has paid for the drug himself. Usually, a "friend" has offered to let the novice try it, just to see what it's like. "Don't knock it until you've tried it," is an old saying that has certainly been misused in this instance. This is the same marketing strategy used by many legitimate businesses who give out free "trial size" versions of their new products.

As long as the supply is there, the dealers will find a way to peddle their goods to at least some portion of the youth in society.

Nonetheless, we have tried, and are still trying, to convince young people that drugs are not recreational, they are lethal. Drugs are not cool, drugs are stupid.

At our last meeting I told you about the provisions in the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 which provided funding for drug prevention education, for drug research, and for drug treatment and rehabilitation. We fought to maintain those funding levels in spite of the serious budget problems our country is facing. I am pleased to report that for the first time in his 8 years as President, Mr. Reagan has supported these efforts by including the level of funding authorized by Congress in his fiscal year 1989 budget proposal.

Last, I would like to encourage you to use your influence to urge the Mexican judicial system to move on the *Camarena* and the *Cortez*cases. I know that in the *Camarena* case over 60 arrests have been made and many indictments have been handed down, but my understanding is that not a single person has been convicted yet. It has been 3 years since that brutal incident. You, as fellow elected officials, can appreciate the pressure we get from our constituents who point to Special Agent Camarena's brutal torture and murder, and demand that we do something, suggesting even something drastic, to obtain justice.

My distinguished colleagues, it is my fervent hope that our meetings can continue to be productive and fruitful. The war on drugs is more than a "Just Say No" campaign. It is a war which demands resources, valuable resources in terms of manpower, equipment, financial support, and intelligence. But it is a war that we cannot afford to lose. The lives and futures of our children are at stake.

I stand ready to work with you in any way that I can. Thank you.

Statement of Representative Benjamin A. Gilman

Mr. Chairman, my distinguished colleagues from Mexico and the United States, it is a pleasure for me to participate once again in our annual Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Conference. As the ranking minority member of the House Select Committee on Narcotics, I am delighted that the chairman of our House of Representatives Narcotics Select Committee, Congressman Charles Rangel, is able to join us as we deliberate on how we can work together to more effectively combat the international problem of the production, trafficking, and consumption of illicit drugs. Chairman Rangel's tireless efforts to wage war against drugs has been an inspiration to all of us who fight alongside of him.

Mr. Chairman, in spite of our efforts we have not made significant progress in our war against drugs. It seems that each day we learn that our enemy is stronger and crueler than any of our worse expectations. The scope and the depth of the problems we face in combating the illicit production, trafficking, and use of drugs is staggering. The growing power of the shadowy network of drug traffickers and corrupt officials is only matched by their increasing ruthlessness and arrogance.

The money which the drug traffickers have acquired through preying on the vulnerabilities of our citizens has enabled them to forge an evil empire founded on illicit narcotics. They are corrupting our governments and their victims are everincreasing. Their greed is insatiable and the threat they pose to our citizens is mounting.

Recently there have been reports of corruption related to drug trafficking in Panama, the Bahamas, Honduras, Haiti, Jamaica, and Colombia. In the proud nation of Colombia drug traffickers are using their ill-gotten wealth to control the destiny of Colombia. The ruthless Colombian drug traffickers, in addition to all the judges and police they have killed, have recently assassinated Attorney General Hoyos. They have also threatened the families of those many brave Colombians who resist intimidation and who continue to stand for justice and democracy. We must support our friends in Colombia not only because their cause is just, but also because their fate could soon be our own. Our hemisphere is in crisis. No nation is safe. The very survival of all our societies is at risk.

UNITED STATES

In the United States we have yet to make significant progress in reducing demand, we face a growing problem of marijuana production. In my country, approximately 40 million people are regular or occasional users of marijuana, over 30 million are regular or occasional users of cocaine. Furthermore, an estimated 7 million people abused psychotropic substances (such as PCP and LSD) during 1986. Drugs are on our streets, in our schools, in the workplace, in the suburbs, and in the inner cities. Drugs, I am sad to report, are everywhere in my country.

We are trying to overcome this great problem. The passage of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 was an important milestone in our struggle against drugs. This legislation, for the first time enabled our Nation to substantially address all aspects of our Nation's drug problems—international narcotics control, interdiction, drug

law enforcement, treatment, rehabilitation, prevention, and education. President Reagan signed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 into law on October 27, 1986. The new law dramatically increased funding for education, allocating $3 billion over a 3-year period. The fiscal year 1989 appropriation for education is over $1 billion. These funds will help us build on the strong foundation of First Lady Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" campaign. We in the United States are committed to decreasing demand through education and are devoting substantial resources toward that end.

COMBATING ILLICIT DRUGS

Mr. Chairman, Mexico and the United States are both drug producing and drug consuming nations. In addition to the severe American demand problem, there is also the Mexican supply problem.

Mexico continues to be the major source for heroin and marijuana entering the United States. The National Narcotics Intelligence Consumers Committee estimates that, in 1986, imports from Mexico were 3,000 to 4,000 metric tons of marijuana and 2.8 metric tons of heroin. Drug traffickers also use Mexico as a cocaine transshipment point from refining centers in South America; beginning in 1985, DEA estimated that one-third of the cocaine consumed in the United States transited Mexico. (From State Department International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, September 1987 update.)

We share a common problem as well as common border. We must pool our resources and work together to combat the menace which we face. I have pointed out some depressing trends and statistics, but we are not without hope. There are programs and proposals which show great promise. The only sure way to win the war against drugs is to work together.

One successful enforcement operation is Operation Vanguard. This program is a bilateral campaign using aerial reconnaissance for the purposes of detecting illicit cultivation of opium poppies and cannabis and certifying their eradication. Operations in 1986 were generally successful, with a 90-percent verification rate on fields sprayed by the Mexican Government.

Operation Chem Con is a program designed to reduce the availability of essential chemicals used in the manufacture of cocaine. In 1986, about 2,000 55-gallon drums of ether were seized in the United States and elsewhere. This amount would have produced more than 24,000 kilograms of cocaine.

The Mexican Attorney General's office reported that 192 metric tons of marijuana were seized during the calendar year 1986. Additionally, 7,201 persons were arrested for marijuana related offenses. With DEA assistance, over 5 metric tons of cocaine were seized during the past year. Increased cooperation between the Mexican Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard in interdiction efforts should result in even greater achievements.

Bilateral enforcement efforts will be enhanced by the new Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT), which was signed by U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Charles A. Pilliod, Jr., and Mexican Attorney General Garcia Ramirez on December 9, 1987. The Mexican Congress has already approved the treaty and the United States Senate should take it up shortly. The treaty contains provisions calling for the exchange of evidence and creating mechanisms for law enforcement agencies of each of our countries to carry out investigations and prosecutions at the request of the other.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman, we serve no one but the drug traffickers themselves if we fall victim to complacency or pretend that the problems we face will go away by themselves. The only way to loosen and eventually break free from the grip of the drug traffickers and their cronies is to work together and with the international community.

Organizations such as the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) play a crucial role in our effort. Since 1971 UNFDAC has utilized the voluntary contributions of U.N. member nations to promote supply and demand reduction programs around the world. I commend the Government of Mexico for its continuing support for international organizations combating illicit drugs.

The close relations between our two countries were reaffirmed at the recent summit meeting between our two Presidents. Both our governments and our citizens understand the threat of illicit drugs. We must develop a regional antidrug strategy for the Americas. Now is the appropriate time for the United States and Mexico to start winning the war against drugs.

Illicit drugs are holding us all back, preventing individuals as well as nation-states from following the path toward fulfillment and development. We must go forward. We must rise to the challenge and stamp out the production trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs and wipe this evil off the face of the earth. And Mr. Chairman, we must do it now, for if we do not, the world we leave for our children will be, in every way, a poorer one.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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